

Claim(s)

1. A system comprising:
a sensor for detecting the presence of a vehicle within a parking space;
a parking meter associated with the parking space, the parking meter configured
5 to receive a payment and the parking meter including a timer that allots time according to
the payment; and
a host, the host connected in a wireless communicating relationship with the
sensor and the host connected in a communicating relationship with the parking meter,
the host configured to monitor the sensor and the parking meter and to determine when
10 the parking space contains an unauthorized vehicle, the host further configured to notify
an enforcement official of the location of the unauthorized vehicle.
2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a base station for maintaining
communications between the sensor and the host.
- 15 3. The system of claim 1 wherein an unauthorized vehicle includes a vehicle for
which no payment has been received.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein an unauthorized vehicle includes a vehicle for
20 which a payment has expired.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein the host determines when a payment for a parking
space is about to expire and generates a notification to a payer who has paid for use of the
parking space.
- 25 6. The system of claim 5 wherein the payer is notified through at least one of an
electronic mail message, a telephonic message, or an electronic page.
7. The system of claim 1 wherein the host notifies the enforcement official of the
30 violation by transmitting a message to a wireless device used by the enforcement official.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the enforcement official is a private towing company.

5 9. The system of claim 1 wherein the parking meter is a paystation that manages payments for a plurality of parking spaces, the host being physically located within the paystation.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein the sensor and the parking meter are contained in a single paystation.

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11. The system of claim 1 wherein the host and the parking meter communicate through a wireless interface.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein the parking meter employs a wireless payment process.

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13. The system of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of sensors and a plurality of parking meters arranged to monitor parking in a parking area, the parking area being at least one of a parking garage, a parking lot, or a public street.

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14. A system comprising:
a sensor for detecting the presence of a vehicle within a parking zone;
a host, the host connected in a wireless communicating relationship with the sensor, the host configured to monitor the sensor and to determine when the parking zone contains an unauthorized vehicle, the host further configured to notify an enforcement official of the location of the unauthorized vehicle.

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15. A system comprising:

a sensor for detecting the presence of a vehicle within a parking space;

a parking meter associated with the parking space, the parking meter configured to receive a payment and the parking meter including a timer that allots time according to the payment;

a host, the host connected in a wireless communicating relationship with the sensor and the host connected in a communicating relationship with the parking meter, the host configured to monitor the sensor and the parking meter and to notify a payer when a payment for the vehicle in the parking space is about to expire.

16. A method comprising:

receiving a first signal from a parking space, the first signal including data concerning the presence of a vehicle in the parking space;

receiving a second signal from a parking meter associated with the parking space, the second signal include data concerning payments received by the parking meter for use of the parking space;

determining when a parking violation has occurred, the violation occurring when data in the first signal indicates that a vehicle is present in the parking space and the data in the second signal indicates that there is no current payment for the parking space; and

in response to the parking violation, generating a message to an enforcement official notifying the enforcement official of the parking violation and a location of the parking space in which the parking violation has occurred.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising determining when a payment for a parking space is about to expire and generating a notification to a payer who has paid for use of the parking space.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein generating a message to an enforcement official includes transmitting the message to a wireless device used by the enforcement official.

19. The system of claim 16 wherein the enforcement official is a private towing company.

20. The system of claim 16 wherein the parking meter is a paystation that manages payments for a plurality of parking spaces.

21. The system of claim 16 wherein the parking meter receives payments through a wireless payment process.

22. A computer program product comprising:
computer executable code for receiving a first signal from a parking space, the first signal including data concerning the presence of a vehicle in the parking space;
computer executable code for receiving a second signal from a parking meter associated with the parking space, the second signal include data concerning payments received by the parking meter for use of the parking space;
computer executable code for determining when a parking violation has occurred, the violation occurring when data in the first signal indicates that a vehicle is present in the parking space and the data in the second signal indicates that there is no current payment for the parking space; and
computer executable code for, in response to the parking violation, notifying an enforcement official of the parking violation and a location of the parking space in which the parking violation has occurred.